



Bright from the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 670 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334
Phone: (404) 657-5562 WWW.DECAL.GA.GOV

Date: 1/14/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:00 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

CCLC-39883

Small Smiles Learning & Childcare Center
1169 Third Street Folkston, GA 31537 Charlton County
(912) 496-3654

Regional Consultant
Kayla Coats
Phone: (470) 676-8185
Fax:
kayla.coats@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			Compliance Zone Designation - A summary measure of a program's 12 month monitoring history, as it pertains to child care health and safety rules. The three compliance zones are good standing, support, and deficient. Good Standing - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. Support - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules. Deficient - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
01/14/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/17/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/27/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	

Ratios/License Capacity

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Main	A	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	8	C	NA	NA	Nap,Feeding,Flo or Play,Diapering
Main	B	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	7	C	8	C	11	C	Free Play,Nap,Lunch
Main	C	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	5	C	9	C	NA	NA	Nap,Transitionin g,Lunch
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 28					
Total # Children this Date: 17					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 28					

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	39	C

Enrolled Children						
Under 1 years	1 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years (Prekonly)	5 years and older
2	5	5	7	4	0	0

Comments

A copy of the visit report was left with the Provider on this date.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

Any rule violation which subjects a child to injury or life-threatening situation or any rule violations previously cited but not corrected, may result in the imposition of an adverse enforcement action. Serious or continued noncompliance may also jeopardize participation in one or more DECAL program(s).

Please refer to the website, <http://www.decgal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>, for information regarding October 1, 2018 rule changes about Criminal Records Checks that may affect your facility. In summary,

- New records checks will be required to be completed if a staff member experiences a six month break in service from the child care industry
- New clearance is required at least once every five years
- Any staff member solely responsible for supervising children will be required to have completed a comprehensive background clearance
- All staff members are required to have completed at least a national fingerprint based clearance check
- Any staff member with only the national fingerprint based clearance, must be under constant and direct supervision of a staff member with a satisfactory comprehensive records check clearance
- Facilities are required to use DECAL KOALA for Criminal Records Checks, including to verify portability of an employee

O.C.G.A. Section 42.1.12(i)(2) requires Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning to notify licensed child care programs on accessing and retrieving from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's (GBI) website a list of the names and addresses of all registered sexual offenders. Please see GBI's website located at <http://gbi.georgia.gov> to access the Georgia Sex Offender Registry.

Refutation Process:

You have the right to refute any of the citations noted in this report with which you disagree. To refute a citation(s), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA www.decalkoala.com with the userid for your program
- 2) On the home page scroll down to the Inspection Reports and select 'Refute Citation' for the visit report in dispute
- 3) Select the specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, add the reason for disagreement regarding the rule citation, and upload supporting documentation
- 4) Submit the refutation in DECAL KOALA to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

Your refutation will be forwarded to the appropriate CCS manager, who will follow up with you about your concerns. If you have any questions about this process, contact our office at 404-657-5562.

Bright from the Start recommends that all licensed child care providers carry liability insurance coverage sufficient to protect its clients. If you do not have this liability insurance, you are required to post a notice with ½ inch letters in a conspicuous location in the program, notify the parent or guardian of each child in care in writing, obtain their signature to acknowledge receipt and maintain this written acknowledgment on file at the program at all times while the child attends the program and for 12 months after the child's last date of attendance. (O.C.G.A. Section 20-1A-4)

Important Quality Rated/CAPS Update:

As January 1, 2022, child care providers must be Quality Rated to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). Newly licensed, or new to CAPS providers may be eligible for the new CAPS/QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward a star rating.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decgal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.03 Activities

Met

Comment

Lesson Plans were observed to be posted and reflected the current weeks activities in each classroom.

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center on this date.

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center on this date.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Met

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2025

Corrected on 1/14/2026

.25(13) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All potentially hazardous materials and supplies were stored in locked cabinets or on shelves located out of the reach of children.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR) Met

Comment

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition Met

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

Comment

Please ensure that infant feeding forms are updated regularly.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations Met

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized on this date.

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR) Met

Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR) Met

Comment

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2025

Corrected on 1/14/2026

.17(6) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All trash cans at the center were observed to have tight-fitting covers on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) N/A

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals N/A

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR) Met

Comment

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR) N/A

Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) N/A

Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR) Met

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Comment

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

Staff Records**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Comment**

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Director stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Met**

Correction Deadline: 9/30/2025

Corrected on 1/14/2026

.14(1)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All current staff members had evidence of up to date First Aid and CPR training.

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Met**

Correction Deadline: 1/1/2026

Corrected on 1/14/2026

.33(5) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. All current staff members had obtained at least 10 hours of annual training as required by the Department.

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)**Met**

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2025

Corrected on 1/14/2026

.31(1)(b)2. - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Director had evidence on file of having completed the required 40 hour Director training.

Staffing and Supervision**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Met****Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.